

POW's Here Say They'll Return — If Trying To Free 1,100 In Cuba By Dec. 30

By MARY LOUISE WILKINSON
Reporter of The Miami News

The 60 Bay of Pigs invasion prisoners released because of their wounds threatened here today that they will return to Cuba Dec. 30 if their companions in arms aren't released by then.

The threats of these men to surrender their freedom was coupled with renewed activity of the families of 1,113 prisoners still in Castro's jails last night at a meeting called here.

So many people turned up at a meeting of the Families Committee, held at their headquarters, that some had to stand in the street.

Castro has demanded 62 million dollars in ransom to free the remaining prisoners but negotiations were under way shortly before the rocket crisis broke to free the men for an equivalent amount of food and medicine.

The meeting had been called by the fathers of 5 prisoners who offered a petition urging the United States government to give the immediate go-ahead to the shipment of food and medicine to Cuba, asked for by Castro.

20 PER CENT

The Families Committee reported that Castro has indicated willingness to release the prisoners upon receipt of 20 per cent of the 62 million dollars ransom merchandise.

They say the medicine and food are ready for shipment out of New York at a moment's notice.

The petition also pleads that James Donovan, the negotiating lawyer, be permitted to go to Havana immediately to complete the arrangements.

Signed by several hundred family members, the petition also thanked the 52 American members for their efforts to effect the release.

Speaking for the petition-writers were Roberto Garcia Serra and Eduardo Surez Rivas.

Family Committee officers Alvaro Sanchez and Berta Barreto in New York and unable to attend, wired their approval of the petition.

They said they were tied up with "important negotiations" relating to the freeing of the prisoners still in Cuba.

Today each family plans to send a telegram to President Kennedy urging the immediate speed-up in the operation.

The Families Committee offices at 17th Street and Biscayne Boulevard, will remain open today for the signing of the petition.

The families hope that the prisoners will be released by Christmas.

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